



European Computer  
Driving Licence Foundation



# ECDL / ICDL Today

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## ECDL Presentation

- ECDL-F Mission & Role
- Success & Development
- Differentiation
- ECDL Economic Value
- ECDL Benefits
- Social Ethos and Inclusiveness
- International Recognition
- Product Developments



# ECDL Foundation

A not-for-profit global governing body of the world's leading computer skills certification programme

Members - computer societies in Europe

Established in January 1997 by CEPIS (Council of European Professional Informatics Societies)



# ECDL Modules

**Module 1 :** Basic Concepts of Information Technology (IT)

**Module 2 :** Using the Computer and Managing Files

**Module 3 :** Word Processing

**Module 4 :** Spreadsheets

**Module 5 :** Database

**Module 6 :** Presentations

**Module 7 :** Information and Communication



## ECDL Foundation Mission

- Help raise the general level of computer skills in society
- Establish a global benchmark for core computer skills competency and IT knowledge
- Provide an essential qualification that allows all people to participate in e-Society
- Be an inclusive programme, 'Open to everyone'



## ECDL Foundation Role

- Global governing body
- Licensing Authority
- Product maintenance & development
- Quality assurance
- Standards and guidelines
- Audit Function
- Working groups – special needs, teachers
- Approval of external service providers
- Communication
- Marketing & Business Support



## ECDL Success

### Statistics:

- 3.6 million students, December 2003
- 12 million+ tests
- 15,000 test centres, 135 countries, 32 languages

### Europe - ECDL as a % of population:

- Almost 6% of Irish population
- Nearly 4% of Swedish and Danish population



## ECDL Development

- Finland - CDL
- Employers, Unions, Govt, Education
- Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS) Task Force
- European Commission - ESPRIT
- Pilot Tests - April 1996
- ECDL - August 1996
- ECDL Foundation - January 1997



# Differentiation

- CEPIS = 250,000 IT Professionals.
- International Support - computer societies, international bodies, governments.
- Social ethos - not for profit, commitment to raising skills, disability issues.
- Generic growth model – “Sweat” Equity approach.
- Test Centres / Courseware / Test Providers.
- All embracing syllabus development process.
- Validation - ETS, EASK, Citogroep, 12 Million Tests!



# International Context

 European Commission	 Unesco	 CEPIS	 IRP
 Australian Computer Society	 Österreichische Computer Gesellschaft (OCG)	 Fédération of Belgian Informatics Associations	 Computer Society of Bermuda
 Canadian Information Processing Society	 Cyprus Computer Society	 Česká společnost pro kybernetiku a informatiku	 Danish Dataforening
 Estonian Information Technology Society	 Tietoliikenneliitto (TTLI)	 Association Française des Sciences et Technologies de l'Information (ASTI)	 Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI)
 EIPY (Eesti Informaatika ja Programmeerimise Selts)	 Nederlandsche Genootschap voor Informatica (NIGI)	 Hong Kong Computer Society	 NUSIT (Nepal Union of Software Technicians)
 SKV (Sveitskið í tölvunarfræði)	 Irish Computer Society (ICS)	 Associazione Italiana per l'Informatica e il Calcolo Automatico (AICA)	 LUTTA (Luksemburgische Union der Technischen und Informatiker)
 LJKS (Latvian Journal of Computer Science)	 The New Zealand Computer Society	 Computer Society of Sri Lanka	 SADIO (Sociedad Argentina de Informática e Investigación Operativa)



## Levels of Input

- CEPIS
- National Computing Societies
- Practicing Computing Professionals
- National Operators
- Test Centres / Courseware & Test Providers
- Subject Matter Experts (SME's)
- Specialist Expert Groups (e.g.: EUSPRIG)
- ECDL Candidates



## ECDL Key Benefits - Candidate

- Designed to help people in work and at home
- Gives candidates a recognised, relevant & up-to-date qualification
- Gives solid foundation of computer skills
- Personal development and motivation



## ECDL Key Benefits - Employer

- Increased productivity
- Reduced PC support costs
- Establishes a tangible benchmark for computer user skills
- Increased quality of administrative output
- Faster payback of IT investments
- Enables employers to invest more efficiently in IT
- Ensures that best practice and quality issues are understood and implemented



## ECDL Key Benefits - Society

### **ECDL - Gateway to the Information Society**

- Raise the general level of competency in computer skills
- Promote Computer Literacy
- Raise IT Knowledge Levels
- Facilitate Job Mobility
- Facilitate Re-Training
- Improve Productivity
- Enhance returns for IT investments



## Social Ethos

- Inclusiveness: ECDL for People with Disabilities - EU Project with partners in Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Norway.
- UNHCR - Global Catalyst Foundation project in Mtabila Refugee Camp, Tanzania.
- Ramallah Refugee Camp - UNESCO test centre.
- Zimbabwe - WorLD Links for Development Project.
- Chile Califica Program.
- Tristan da Cunha.
- Kabul, Sarajevo, Tsula



## International Recognition

The ECDL is the only computer skills certification program adopted and recognized by:

- **The European Commission**  
European Commission initiatives:  
ESDIS Committee Oct '02 recommended that ECDL "be accepted as a Europe-wide basic IT accreditation scheme"
- **UNESCO**  
ICDL program in Arab States delivered through UNESCO Cairo Office. Also working with UNESCO in Russia.
- **United Nations Development Program**  
April 2003: UNDP enrolled 5,000 staff members in 131 countries in the ICDL program.





## International Recognition

Accepted internationally at government level:

- **Education Ministries-** Australia, Austria, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Poland.
- **E-Government Plans** – Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Norway.
- **Ministries of Defense** – UK, Sweden, Italy.
- **Re-training Schemes** – UK New Deal & FIT Ireland.
- **Health Services** – UK, Sweden
- **Institutes of Public Administration** – Ireland, Romania
- **Multinational Organizations**



## Product Development Roadmap

ECDL Programme

Introductory

Core

Advanced

Specialist

E-Kids\*  
EqualSkills\*  
E-Citizen\*\*

Basic Concepts of IT  
Using Computer &  
Managing Files  
Word Processing  
Spreadsheets  
Database  
Presentation  
Information &  
Communication

Advanced WP  
Advanced  
Spreadsheets  
Advanced  
Database  
Advanced  
Presentation

ECDL Certified Training  
Professional  
ECDL CAD  
ECDL Web Publisher\*\*  
ECDL SSBP  
ECDL PD\*\*



# Spreadsheets Best Practice

- EUSPRIG involvement:
- Dublin event – Trinity 2003
- Idea of an ECDL certification module in this area
- Best practice in the use of spreadsheets.
- 8 months
- 6 meetings
- Working title :
  - “ECDL Spreadsheets Best Practice (Module 4SSBP)”
- Module Goals



## Module Goals

- Module 4SSBP, *Spreadsheets Best Practice*, requires the Candidate to appreciate their responsibility for good spreadsheet design and use given the scope and significance of spreadsheets use in the contemporary workplace. The Candidate shall appreciate the need for good spreadsheets specification, be aware of the key security considerations, and appreciate the benefits of clearly organised, well presented and easy-to-use spreadsheets. The Candidate shall be able to construct sound spreadsheets, find and correct common errors, and test for input and output accuracy. It is anticipated that the Candidate will already have mastered the skills and achieved the knowledge detailed in ECDL Module 4, Spreadsheets, or ECDL Module AM4, Spreadsheets, Advanced-Level.



## Development Process

- Subject Matter Experts
- Working Group Meetings at ECDL-F
- Module Goals
- Syllabus Definition
- Industry standard development process
- Soft test characterisation
- Criticality Exercises
- Model tests exercises
- Cut score Exercises
- Pilot Tests
- Syllabus iteration



## Development Plans

- Initial Test Items work undertaken
- Syllabus Inputs
- ITR Database
- Invitation to input into Syllabus definition
  - [garry.cleere@ecd.com](mailto:garry.cleere@ecd.com)
- Participation at EUSPRIG Event
- Piloting anticipated from September
- Call for participation in Pilot
- SME participation and thanks
- Formal Product Launch



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